

# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Gray Panthers Bridge All Ages & Issues

By Jeff Kaliss

With its media image as a haven for liberals, it's not surprising that Noe Valley harbors more than its share of Gray Panthers. But it may surprise some to realize that these activists are not *all* gray.

"The banner of the Panthers is 'Age and Youth in Action,'" notes attorney Colette Hughes, 32-year-old former vice president of the local Panther "network," as it is called. There are Panthers her own age and others more than twice her age living in Hughes' apartment building at Army and Noe Streets, a local Panther hotbed.

The nationwide organization began in 1970 not as the Gray Panthers but as the Consultation of Older and Younger Adults for Social Change. Its founder, Maggie Kuhn, had just confronted mandatory retirement and was disturbed by the limitations this imposed on her.

Not long after the Consultation was formed, the media coined the term "Gray Panthers" for the group because of a perceived political similarity to the race-rooted Black Panthers. Although the snappier name stuck, it obscured Kuhn's



A colorful variety of Gray Panthers gathered on the steps of City Hall last month to protest the President's priorities. Among them were Noe Valley resident Laurie Udesky (far left) and local executive director Sherry Gendelman (center, with bullhorn).

PHOTO BY MARIELLA POLI

efforts to establish parallels between the experiences of old and young: job discrimination, identity crises, and an alienation from society's decision-making apparatus.

The Panthers expanded their membership and the breadth of their activities during the '70s. At the White House Conference on Aging in 1971, they urged that government dollars be spent on human needs rather than fighting in Vietnam. Merger with Ralph Nader's Retired

Professional Action Group brought the Panthers into consumer advocacy. And in 1977, they published *Nursing Homes: A Citizen's Action Guide*. By the time of their third general convention in 1979, they boasted 50,000 members in 40 states.

Hughes joined the San Francisco Panthers in 1977, about a year after the formation of the local network. She recalls

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## Comerford Alley May Become Legitimate Lane

By Denise Minor

Residents along Comerford Alley have won a round in their fight to convince the city to begin maintaining the small street behind their homes. Last month the San Francisco Board of Supervisors set in motion the bureaucratic wheels that will allow the city to adopt the orphan alley instead of auction it off publicly as previously planned.

"This should be considered a victory for the people of Comerford Alley," said Laura Talmus, an aide to Supervisor John Molinari. Since last summer, Molinari has championed the cause of people living along the ratty, overgrown passage connecting Church to Sanchez between 27th and Duncan streets.

In a March Finance Committee meeting, the board instructed city attorney Mark Kertz to draw up a piece of legislation that will enable the city to acquire Comerford as well as another alley (called Joyce). Until recently, both streets were owned by the state.

"I tell you I was really happy," enthused Hugo Rezzio of 27th Street, one of about 15 Noe Valley residents who attended the committee session. "We were satisfied with what was presented at the meeting."

Since 1932, when the state confiscated Comerford because its owners had failed to pay their taxes, the alley has gone largely untended. On rare occasions, city work crews gave it a tarring or the neighbors organized clean-ups, but, by and large, the street remained a repository for garbage and the "restroom" for local canines. According to residents with garage entrances on the alley, how-



The way looks smoother nowadays for little Comerford Alley. In a few months it may become an official thoroughfare, under city care and protection.

PHOTO BY TOM WACHS.

ever, the worst problem was that police couldn't enforce parking violations on Comerford.

Because Comerford is two feet narrower than the 20-foot minimum required for new city streets, the Public Works Department had discouraged the city from taking over the alley. In DPW's view, maintaining such narrow alleys is a difficult and expensive task.

But last fall when word circulated that Comerford would be auctioned, neighbors banded together to pressure the city to designate Comerford as a public thoroughfare and maintain it as such.

Their efforts came to fruition when Molinari brought the issue before the Finance Committee at the end of March.

Attorney Kertz said the other supervisors at the meeting "didn't know much" about the legal issues involved in taking over the alley, so his first task would be to consult with the appropriate city departments, including Public Works, Real Estate and Tax Collection, and then re-

port back to the board. "They want the paper work done, and they'll go from there," he said. He expected to give his assessment to the Finance Committee by the end of April.

If the committee agrees with Comerford Alley's neighbors and opts to buy the street, Kertz said, the legislation will then go before the entire board for final approval.

Molinari's office thinks the chances are good for city takeover of the alley because of the strong public interest in the case.

"We originally thought that because of what Public Works was saying, there was no way the city would buy it," said Talmus. "The reading we get now is that this proposal is going to be accepted."

And though the city doesn't formally own the property yet, Rezzio reports that "there's already been some improvement" on the street behind his house. "They came in recently and fixed up some chuck holes." □

## Look Sharp Still Lost in The No-Zone

By Denise Minor

After five years in operation, Marc Berger must close his Castro Street secondhand clothing store, Look Sharp, because of what he claims is a fluke in city zoning regulations.

Though he lacked the necessary permits, Berger opened Look Sharp in the middle of the block of Castro between Jersey and 25th streets in January, 1981. The city Planning Department refused right from the start to grant him a variance to set up shop, but it wasn't until recently that the agency took a hard line and asked police to shut the store down.

Berger is resigned to selling off his Look Sharp inventory, but remains bitter about the whole escapade. "It makes no sense. This shop is not going to be livable. It was obviously meant to be commercial," he said.

He also thinks his enterprise has been unfairly singled out. "It's the loopholes that got me. The lot across the street is commercial, and there are shops to my right," he said, pointing to the video store and laundry on the west side of Castro and a beauty parlor nearby.

Whether or not it makes sense, city planning claims it must enforce existing zoning restrictions. Barry Pearl, of the Planning Department, says the lot at 1431 Castro St. lost its commercial status in a major zoning revamp of a number of properties in the early 1960s. The Look Sharp spot did operate commercially for a few years under what's called a "non-conforming" exemption, but in the late 1960s the former owners failed to re-apply for the exemption, so the property reverted to residential use.

When new owner Michael Knysch leased the ground floor to Berger in 1981, both thought it could still be used commercially, although for years it had been storage. Berger realized he was out of luck, however, when his application for a secondhand dealer's permit was denied. He went to the Board of Permit Appeals following the decision, but again failed to win his case.

City planner Lori Yamauchi explained that "once a commercial use reverts back to its permitted residential use, it can't go back to its non-permitted use." She added that in Berger's case the Board of Permit Appeals had no power to change the regulation. "Zoning isn't governed by the board of appeals."

To have kept the storefront's non-conforming classification, she said, the previous owner would have had to re-apply when the property's status was up for renewal. "This sounds like a fluke in the way the property change was handled," said Yamauchi. "But we can't advise property owners of their options at every turn."

The only way to re-establish the building's commercial use would be to change the zoning, she said. "The property owner could consider applying for a rezoning, if he or she wanted to go through the time and expense."

Berger remains frustrated with the system's intransigency and foresees harsh consequences for small shop owners like

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## FRANCIS RATH

Aug. 18, 1935–April 7, 1986



The late Francis Rath (right) stands with partner Ivan St. John in the doorway of their 24th Street bookstore.  
PHOTO BY MARC SULLIVAN

By Jeff Kaliss

The day before he died of a heart attack last month, Francis Rath was reading aloud from *The Wind in the Willows* for a group of friends assembled at his 28th Street home. The event testified to two of the great loves of Rath's life: people and books. As co-owner of the Philosopher's Stone bookstore on 24th Street, Rath had for 15 years provided the neighborhood with a wondrous variety of metaphysical, spiritual, and esoteric literature. In the words of Ivan St. John, his partner and housemate, Rath was also "a spiritual counselor to a lot of people."

During the sixties, prior to bookselling, Rath had been a policeman with a beat in the Haight-Ashbury, at the heart of the action. He was much beloved of the flower children, and there was bitter irony when he and another liberal cop were seriously injured by a saboteur's bomb at the Park Police Station in 1970.

A year later, Rath and St. John set up shop at their first Noe Valley location, across from Surf Market. Their stock was originally an extension of the bookshelves of their own living room, says St. John. Based on chats with his browsers, Rath later went out of his way to order books that met his customer's interests.

After moving the store to its present location at 3814 24th St. in 1974, Rath

instituted a series of weekly readings of J.R.R. Tolkien's *Hobbit* trilogy, which continued to the time of his death. "He had a great, great reading voice," St. John recalls. "There were even some people who came to those readings all 12 years." For the last chapters of each year's cycle, Rath and St. John would invite the listeners to their own home for an all-day reading, with meals.

Rath was very fond of the neighborhood he lived and worked in, says St. John. He remembers conversations with his partner, seated in the store's comfortable wooden interior, about Noe Valley's many charms and changes.

"I'd say, 'You know, it really sounds like we're talking about someone we love,' and he'd say, 'Yeah, we happen to love the neighborhood.'" For many who remember Francis Rath, the feeling is mutual.

Rath, who was 50, is survived by his ex-wife, Sandra Rath, of Sunnyvale; brothers Donald in Florida and Richard in Arizona, and several nieces and nephews.



## THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

1021 Sanchez Street  
San Francisco 94114

The *Noe Valley Voice* is an independent news, paper published monthly except in January and August. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity. Mail subscriptions are available at a cost of \$10 a year (\$5 a year for seniors).

The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, art, work and manuscripts. However, all such items must include your name and phone number and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters to the editor will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Editorial: 821-3324

Distribution and

Subscriptions: 469-0419

Display Advertising Only:

Call Steve at 239-1114

Classified Ads: See Page 19

Advertising Deadline for

June 1986 Issue: May 20

Editorial Deadline: May 15

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# St. Martin's Stirs the Spirit With Free Soup

By Denise Minor

At the end of the month, the lunch line at St. Martin De Porres Hospitality is at its longest.

"People's checks run out—Disability, Social Security, whatever—and they need somewhere to eat," explains Barbara Collier, the indefatigable manager of the 23rd Street kitchen which for 15 years has given free meals to the needy. "At the beginning of the month we serve about 100 for lunch. By the end of the month, it's usually between 600 and 800."

And it will be at the end of next month, when the demand is at its greatest, that Collier and some 70 volunteers must pack up and move, probably to a converted auto body shop on Potrero Avenue. The soup kitchen's current landlord will not renew its lease, which runs out July 1.

Though St. Martin will leave behind a building whose facade is painted with an exotic bird, a leaping fish and a hand flipping a pancake with a spatula, the "new location is perfect," said Collier, taking a breather from her busy schedule last month.

"We really wanted to stay in the Mission." There's one problem, however. "We need money." The group must come up with \$625,000 to buy the building on Potrero and pay the moving and renovation expenses, she said.

At that moment a dishwasher walked up to Collier in the kitchen's sunny back lot. "Someone just made a donation," she said, dropping a dime and four pennies from her dripping rubber glove into Collier's hand.

Every little bit helps, but Collier is thinking big. "We're sure there are 625



Volunteers Marian Sullivan and Lou Valla help serve up 25,000 meals a month to the needy at St. Martin De Porres Hospitality House on 23rd Street. Named for a 16th century saint who preached humility and compassion, the House must soon find a new home.

PHOTO BY TOM WACHS.

people out there who would donate \$1,000 each," she said, fingering the coins.

It is that same determined optimism that has kept Hospitality House serving 25,000 meals a month, breakfast and lunch, at the cost of about 28 cents a serving. Completely volunteer-run, the kitchen survives on a \$7,000-a-month budget, mostly because of food, money and worker donations. "We get no grants, no government funding," Collier said.

"We survive on gifts such as that," she explained, gesturing toward a two-foot-long squash lying on some plastic bins. "Or like that," she continued, nodding at a white-haired man who was swaying under the weight of two large plastic bags full of milk cartons.

The volunteer unloaded his burden in the kitchen, where servers were dishing up turkey soup and stuffed green peppers from huge cauldrons and steaming trays. Workers and guests smiled and called each other by name.

"There's little difference between one

side of the counter and the other," noted Collier. "The people who come here are our guests, and they can sit after meals as long as they want. It's a place that feels like home to someone who's been told all week to move on. That's why they choose to eat here year after year."

The crew at Hospitality House call the philosophy behind their work "gentle personalism," which loosely translates to: "We're all responsible for each other."

Their mentor is the black, 16th-century Peruvian saint, Martin De Porres. "He was to Latin America what St. Francis of Assisi was to Europe," says Collier. "He preached compassion, and he fed and clothed the poor."

Three statues of the saint, the largest with a eucalyptus-shell necklace around its neck, adorn the kitchen counter. Dangling from the necklace are about two dozen turkey wishbones, testament to the many feasts held at St. Martin's over the years. Each figure carries a broom. "He was the patron saint of sweeping," said Collier. "He was very

humble, and preached that the way to salvation was through menial labor."

In the kitchen, a nurse, teacher, retiree and about six other volunteers shared in the day's menial tasks. "This kind of work has been looked down upon. But we look at it as an opportunity to put something back in the pot after all we've been given," Collier said. St. Martin De Porres serves breakfast from 6 to 7:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, and lunch from noon to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

For those who would like to put something in the pot, but who don't have much cash, Collier has lots of ideas. "Rent a Woody Allen film, make popcorn, and charge your friends to come," she suggested. "Or instead of having your friends give you birthday or wedding gifts, have them donate to the fund."

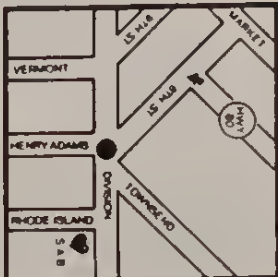
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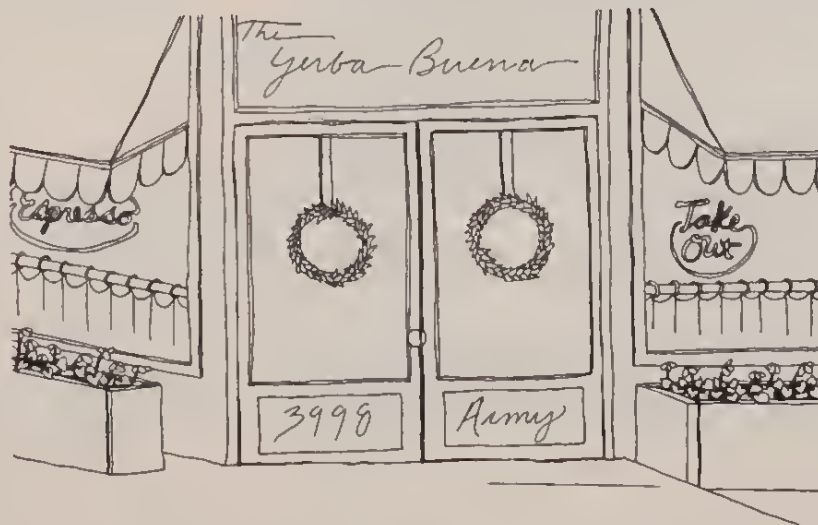
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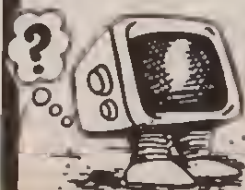
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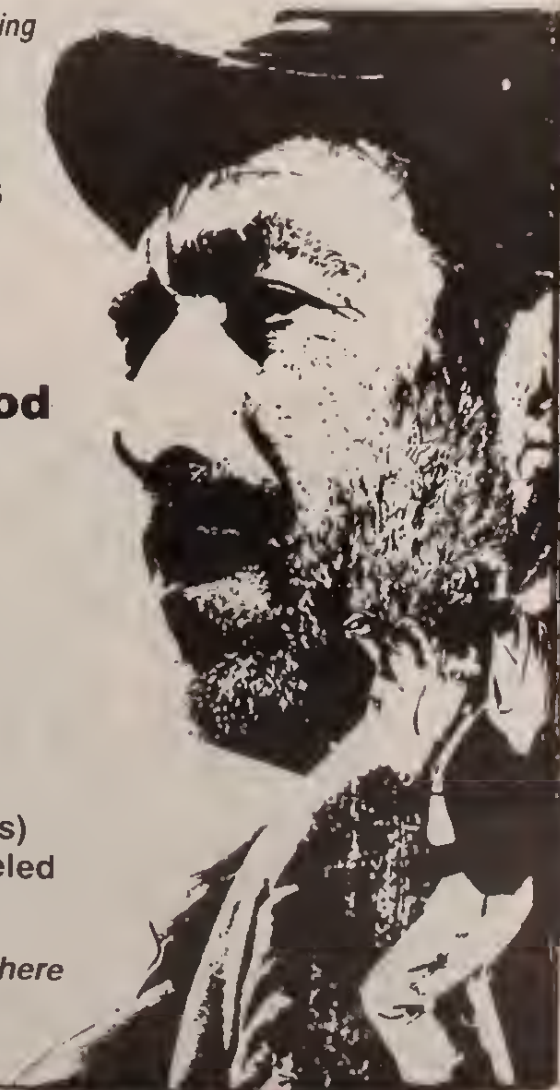
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## • Look Sharp •

Continued from Page 1

himself who don't have the muscle to change things. "They're enforcing laws that are supposed to be for the best of the community, even if the community doesn't feel that way," he argued.

To prove he had neighborhood support for his shop, Berger submitted a petition signed by over 400 Noe Valley residents at his appeals hearing, he said. When he was denied the exemption back in 1981, he decided he would defy the ruling and stay open until ordered to shut down.

"The ironic thing is that a lot of people want to keep Noe Valley quaint, but the small businesses are being forced out," he said. "I think there's a lot of unfair politics going on that hurt small businesses."

Another irony is that forcing Berger out of his shop because it's zoned residential will not bring more housing to Noe Valley. Not only is the ground-floor space unsuitable for residential use—it has storefront windows and inadequate wiring and plumbing—but the two-story building has reached its capacity of dwelling units under other zoning regulations. "It can't be converted to an additional dwelling because there are three in the building already," admitted Pearl. "It can only be converted to storage, parking or more space for the other dwelling units."

Because of high rents, Berger is pessimistic about finding a new space for Look Sharp in the Castro area or Noe Valley, which is where he wants to operate. So he'll probably liquidate his stock and be out of the Castro Street shop by the end of May. "Liquidation is my big problem," he said, "besides being out of a job." □



Marc Berger looks rightfully rueful about the forced closure of his Castro Street clothing outlet. City authorities refused to let the business continue without proper permits. PHOTO BY JOEL ABRAMSON

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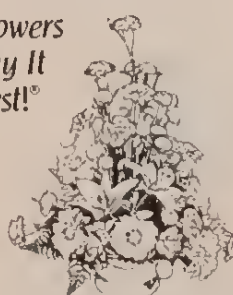
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## Noebody's Inn Has an Affair With Music, Poetry and Art

By Larry Beresford

A group calling itself the Noe Valley Art Association has been meeting weekly since mid-March at Noebody's Inn, 4054 24th St. The goal of the group is to promote local talent, and its first project will be the Noe Valley Art Affair, May 16-18, at the bar. The works of Noe Valley artists will be on display, and neighborhood musicians and poets will entertain for three days running.

"The idea really started with Jeff Behney, the manager of the bar, who started putting his own watercolors on the walls in Noebody's," explained Bill Yard, a former neighborhood resident who helped with the association's planning. "We started talking about it with other neighborhood artists and said, 'Hey, we can crowd Ansel Adams and M.C. Escher off the walls. Those guys don't spend any money in here!'"

Soon about 25 artists and musicians—all either living or working in the neighborhood—were involved. "Everybody talks about how difficult it is for artists to find a vehicle for expression," Yard said. "We decided to do something about it."

During the weekend Affair, drawings and paintings will be displayed on the tavern walls and on portable partitions inside and outside the bar, weather permitting. The event is free to the public, and

pieces will be for sale.

On Friday night, starting at 7 p.m., local poets David Hallstrom, Paul Yougoff, and Stan Mitchell will take center stage along with acoustic musicians Rob Cullison, Steve Trippe and Chuck Barlow, among others. Jazz groups, including the Mark Kennedy Trio and the Cort Tomlin Quartet, will play Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 2 a.m. both days. *Noe Valley Voice* columnist Roger Rubin will act as emcee.

Yard says the association has asked other neighborhood businesses to help underwrite the costs of the event and has also encouraged them to show local art on their own walls. The group hopes the festival will eventually lead to annual art affairs and exhibits at Noebody's as well as at other sites.

"We're applying for non-profit status, which should make it easier to solicit support in the future," Yard said. This might make it possible to offer tax write-offs to participating businesses for their display space, while a percentage of sales could stay with the businesses, he added.

One of the artists, Debra Aarens, is also a bartender at Noebody's. An accomplished pool player, Aarens used pastels and colored pencils to render the piece called "Pool Balls" that she will display in the art show at Noebody's. Six of Aarens' pool-related pieces were exhibited at the Caesar's Tahoe



Debra Aarens displays her drawing "Pool Balls" ("I don't go in for obtuse titles") at Noebody's Inn, where she tends bar and plays pool. Aarens joins some two dozen other artists and musicians May 16-18 for the first Noe Valley Art Affair, sponsored by the newly formed Noe Valley Art Association. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

Billiards Classic in 1982.

Other artists who will exhibit work at Noebody's are painters John Ammirati, Eileen Blodgett, Johanna Dahn, Ross Fink, Dan Richman and Marc Robyn, photographer William Bregoff, sculptor Nina Goldfeather and textile artist Dani Gray. Popular cartoonist S. Clay Wilson will contribute some doodles, Daniel Halas will show his pastel drawings, and Betsy

Meyers plans to display her small sculpture and jewelry creations.

The Noe Valley Art Association needs sponsors and donors, as well as submissions by artists living or working in the neighborhood. (Contact Jeff Behney at Noebody's Inn, 285-0674.) Noe Valley residents are also urged to mark their calendars for May 16-18. It could be the first date in a long and lively affair. □

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## • Gray Panthers •

Continued from Page 1



Hill Street neighbors Lillian Issel (left) and Carol Jean Wisneski display the enthusiasm and breadth of age of the Gray Panther membership. Issel counsels on health care issues, while Wisneski keeps watch on ageism in the media.  
PHOTO BY MARIELLA POLI

that there were then many differences between members about how best to organize, some preferring to be "completely loose-knit and freewheeling." Hughes, who was then a nurse, focused her own energy on nursing homes, where she encouraged residents to develop their own governing body and to hire legal counsel to protect themselves against abuse.

Carol Jean Wisneski, also in her 30s, a Noe Valley resident and a 10-year Panther, has co-chaired the network's Media Watch Committee since 1979. The committee and its affiliates in other cities monitor print and electronic media for stereotypes based on age. "When we find that an image is distorted or an age group is omitted from something," explains Wisneski, "we'll write to the producers, directors, or writers, or call them and tell them what we found, and give them positive ways of changing." They send the offending party a set of "media guidelines," displaying examples of appropriate and inappropriate language and imaging.

Recently the committee complained to Vidal Sassoon that his shampoo ads on TV used only young models. "Sassoon wrote back to us and said, 'Your point is well taken. My 80-year-old mother said the same thing,'" recalls Wisneski. "Then about eight months later, they had these wonderful older women shampooing their hair [on TV]."

The committee was less successful in influencing Elmo and Patsy, Sonoma

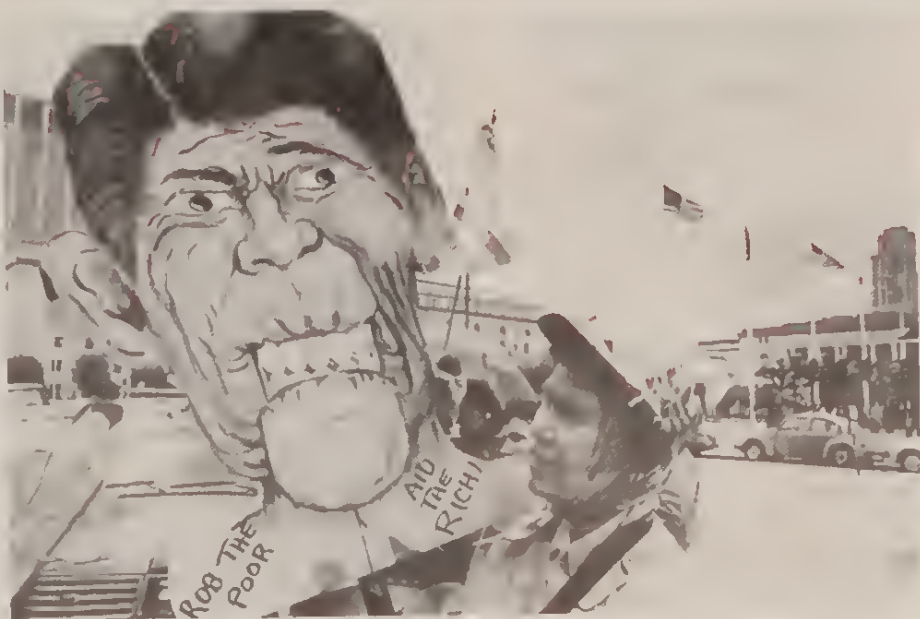
County songwriters and performers of "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer," which enjoyed Christmastime airplay in 1980. "Elmo wouldn't change [the song's ageist lyrics] because he wanted to make bucks and thought it wouldn't be funny," Wisneski recalls. So the Panthers, in force with the Women Against Violence in Pornography and the Media (WAVPAM), picketed Elmo and Patsy's performance at the Boarding House on Columbus Avenue and transmitted their protest by letter to the media. A year later, 26 out of 29 local radio stations had banished the offending song from their playlists.

Miriam Blaustein, Hughes' upstairs neighbor, joined the Panthers when, like Maggie Kuhn, she was forced to retire from U.C. Medical Center in 1978. "It's as if we become non-functional when we have our 65th birthday," says Blaustein. Now 72, she's gained media attention for her promotion of healthy and affordable nutrition for elders and others in the Sunday Examiner's "Image" magazine as well as the Voice. The Panther's *Cheap and Nutritious* cookbook, which Blaustein co-authored, has received nationwide distribution and is now in its third printing.

Blaustein has also been active on the network's Housing Committee, whose concerns she finds relevant to Noe Valley. "Older people who are renters are being pushed out of the places they've been in for 40 or 50 years," she declares. "In the checkout line at Bell, I've heard people say, 'I don't know where I'm going to live, my landlord just sent me notice that I have to leave.'" The Housing Committee helps senior tenants find legal advice, and advocates for adequate services at senior centers.

The network's Peace Committee garnered attention last month when young and old gathered for a march on the Armed Forces Recruiting Station near Market and Ninth streets, where some Panthers attempted to enlist. This tongue-in-cheek piece of agitprop was designed to demonstrate the lack of benefits given seniors.

"The military has the best of housing, the best of health care, and discounts on food, entertainment and education," explained marcher La Verne Guilloyle of Clipper Street, who actually served in the Air Force in 1951-52. "I don't begrudge career military certain advantages, but I think it's carried to excess."



President Reagan's expenditures on the military to the detriment of human services were held up to ridicule in a Gray Panther demonstration at the Civic Center last month.  
PHOTO BY MARIELLA POLI

Network Executive Director Sherry Gendelman, who co-led the march with 26th Street Panther Laurie Udesky, explained that it was held on "tax day" (April 15) because "it's our tax money that's used for the proliferation of nuclear arms and weapons." The coincidence of the bombing of Libya on April 14 did not forestall the demonstration. "We decided it was more telling and chilling," Gendelman said as the marchers huddled in a variety of paramilitary costumes under a drizzling rain.

Most of Gendelman's time with the Panthers is not quite so entertaining or dramatic. As a salaried administrator, she works with one part-time paid staff member and a host of volunteers out of the Panthers' small suite of offices on Fell Street near Van Ness, rented from New College. A former civil rights attorney, Gendelman, 42, was selected by the network's board of directors last summer.

She soon found herself "overwhelmed with the workload and demand" and discovered that "as conditions worsen, it gets worse. At Christmas and for almost all of January it was a nightmare answering the phone, with people crying for housing." Gendelman was also beset by "a constant relentless requirement to make money" for the network, which will have to find new quarters when New College relocates its own administrative offices from Valencia Street to Fell Street next summer.

Still Gendelman is proud of the achievements of the San Francisco Panther chapter, the largest in the country with over 500 members. She points out that the group's Cheap and Nutritious Meal Program has raised \$40,000 (through book sales) and that the Media Watch Committee is one of the nation's most active, contributing regularly to the bimonthly *Network*, the Panthers' national newspaper. The local network publishes its own monthly newsletter, conducts training in fighting ageism and understanding government financing, testifies at hearings, and participates in activist demonstrations. Counseling on health insurance is provided at the network office by Hill Street Panther Lillian Issel and others.

Aside from offering a vehicle for activism, the Gray Panthers serves as a sort of extended family. Issel joined on her son's suggestion after losing her husband and relocating to San Francisco, and she says the Panthers have given her a new purpose in life. Wisneski (who is Issel's tenant on Hill Street) misses her deceased grandmother and lives far from her mother, so she finds that "I have these roles met in Gray Panther membership."

Eighty-year-old Maggie Kuhn, the original Gray Panther, expressed this intergenerational spirit eloquently in a recent issue of *Network*. "We have seen the commonalities and natural affinities that unite us," she declared. "The bonding is not accidental, it is life." □



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## Activism Takes To the Floor At Fort Mason

More than 3,000 people will vote with their dancing feet for peace in Central America and nuclear disarmament when the third annual "Give Peace a Dance" (GPAD) gets rolling at Fort Mason May 31 from noon to midnight.

Highlighting the Pier 3 event will be some of the area's most irresistible dance hands and host Ed Asner, the actor/activist best known for his roles in television programs *Lou Grant* and the *Mary Tyler Moore Show*.

"I believe in events such as this," said Asner, who will fly in from Los Angeles to host GPAD during the afternoon. "They raise money to help heal the wounds caused by our foreign policy, and to stop us from constructing more weapons of destruction."

Proceeds will go to the San Francisco Freeze and the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador.

Other celebrity hosts include KPFA's "morning monster," Kris Welch, and KFOG's Scoop Nisker. Providing the heat will be Eddie and the Tide, Linda Tillery and her band, Conjunto Cespedes, Zulu Spear, Pride and Joy, John Lee Hooker and the Coast-to-Coast Blues Band, and Mitch Woods and His Rocket 88's.

"The dancers raise money by soliciting sponsors for each hour they're cutting the rug," said GPAD co-coordinator Jennie Carpenter. "This year we're sure we can reach our \$125,000 goal if we make a real team effort." Many of the dancers also organize teams, such as last year's "Let's Samba, not Bombs," and vie for prizes in costume and dance contests.

"Everyone has a good time at the event, even the staff," said the other coordinator, Erik Ferry. But he also stressed the importance of the dance as a fundraiser. Its earnings go toward efforts to gain a bilateral nuclear weapons tests ban, lobbying to stop the "Star Wars" program, ending the U.S.-sponsored bombing in El Salvador, and medical and material aid to victims of



Twenty thousand protesters from all over the Bay Area marched from Dolores Park to the Civic Center on April 20 in a "Mobilization for Peace, Jobs and Justice." The group was demonstrating against a number of national policies, including nuclear testing, support for apartheid, scientific and commercial exploitation of animals, and U.S. intervention in El Salvador, where Bishop Oscar Romero was slain. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD.

El Salvador's civil war.

Dancers who pay a \$7 registration fee before May 26 will receive a free "Give

Peace a Dance" T-shirt. Entrance at the door will cost \$15. For more information call 861-0593. ☐

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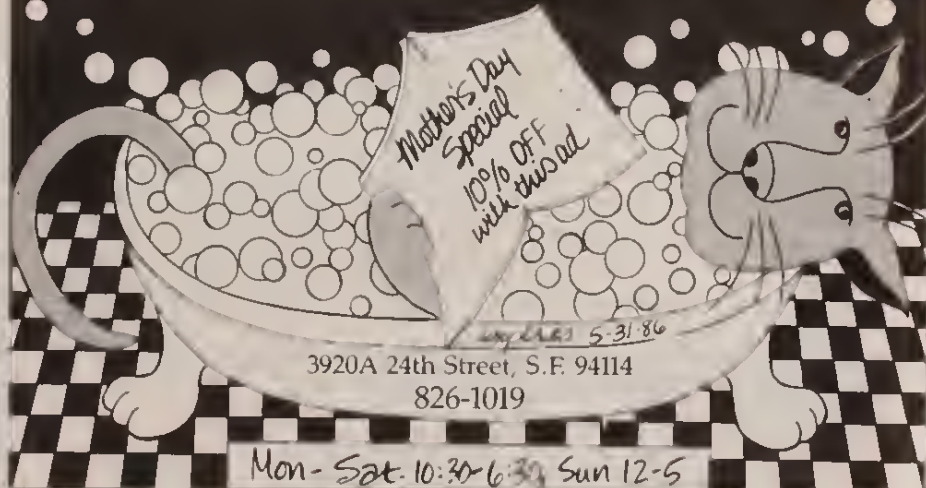
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## Mom TV

*My Mother Married Wilbur Stump*, a half-hour video by local producer Skip Sweeney, will be aired on KQED-TV at 7:30 p.m. on Mother's Day, May 11. A prize-winner at the American Film and Video Festival in New York and the Retirement Research Foundation's National Media Awards in Chicago, the show documents the romance between 54-year-old Bernadine Sweeney and Wilbur Stump, a hard-luck piano bar entertainer 15 years her senior. Skip used old home movies, snapshots and informal dialogue to construct a compelling portrait of the typical suburban American family. The show is produced by Video Free America, of which Sweeney and fellow Noe Valleyon Joanne Kelly are co-directors.

## Stunting Growth

Unsatisfied with the city's Downtown Plan, which won voter approval last year, the San Francisco Campaign for Accountable Planning (SFCAP) is hoping to qualify an initiative for the November 1986 ballot that would extend controls, strengthen the city's master plan, reduce the annual limit on development, and establish job placement and training programs for San Francisco residents.

SFCAP needs people to collect signatures and work on four committees: community outreach, speakers bureau/literature, publicity/media, and fundraising. Noe Valley resident Rick Hauptman would like to hear from volunteers at 647-0549.

## Remember the \$

Do you find yourself forgetting what it was like to be young? The Veterans Administration Medical Center wants to test the memory of healthy women and men aged 35 to 55, to establish a normal range of scores that can be compared with those of adults with certain medical conditions. If you're in that age range, fluent in English, and a high school graduate, you could make \$15 for a single 1½ hour test session. Call Pat Kurzman at 221-4810, extension 3090, to find out if you qualify.

## Nuclear Food

Food from the Noe Valley Community Store at Sanchez and 29th streets has always contributed to the neighborhood's glow of health, but folks at the store are getting worried about the increasing irradiation of fruits and vegetables. This threat increased last month when the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave its approval to such treatments.

"Irradiation kills the bacteria, which is good," notes the store's Tiona Gundy, "but it also kills nutrients and changes things around."

Gundy says the FDA based its approval on rather inconclusive testing and, furthermore, neglected to provide the names of food producers who use nuclear wastes in their processing. She also claims these producers are locating their irradiation sites dangerously close to major metropolitan centers.

For those interested in discussing the ecological, nutritional and political fallout from food irradiation, there will be a meeting May 11, 7:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Panelists will be drawn from the Com-

# SHORT TAKES



This snapshot of Wilbur Stump and his happy bride, Bernadine Sweeney, is one element in son Skip Sweeney's prize-winning video *My Mother Married Wilbur Stump*, which celebrates Mother's Day, May 11, at 7:30 p.m. on Channel 9.

munity Store and from the Coalition to Stop Food Irradiation, which was formed when radioactive treatment of herbs began two years ago. Call the store at 824-8022 or the coalition at 566-2734 for more information.

## Music in May

May 7 happens to be the birthdate of two musical geniuses born seven years apart, Johannes Brahms (in 1833) and Peter Tchaikovsky (in 1840). The Ina Chalis Opera Ensemble, headquartered on Hoffmann Street, celebrates this coincidence with a performance of Tchaikovsky's art songs and staged scenes from his operas *Eugene Onegin* and *The Queen of Spades*, and duets, lieder, and *Gypsy Songs* by Brahms. The concert takes place Friday, May 9, at 8 p.m. at the newly renovated Community Music Center, 344 Capp St. Chalis is seeking new singers in all vocal ranges, and she invites you to call her at 826-8670 for information about auditions or the concert.



Pianist Jessica Williams will be serving up a mixed brew of creative improvisations on old standards and new compositions for prepared piano at the Noe Valley Music series May 10.

PHOTO BY MICHELLE BOLEYN

May also brings a basket of talent to the Noe Valley Music Series at the Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Keyboardist Jessica Williams, who continues to astound jazz fans with her compositions for prepared piano, will launch the Saturday night live shows on May 10. Ancient Future shares

its New Age approach to jazz on May 17, Golden Bough dips back to the roots of Celtic and other folk music on May 24, and the Nuclear Whales Saxophone Orchestra celebrates sax night on May 31. This month the series presents two "Sunday Specials": Grammy Award-winner Bobby McFerrin joins Alive singer rhiannon on May 18, and the Jon Raskin Trio plays May 25.

The Saturday concerts start at 8:15 p.m., the Sunday pair at 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets are available from Aquarius Records, 3961 24th St.

## Poems and Stories

It's rare to get paid much for poetry, but the *Bay Guardian* has \$100 prizes for the winners of its 20th anniversary poetry contest and its second annual Kenneth Patchen picture poem contest. You've only got one day (till May 7) to submit an entry, so you'd better take it over to the paper's office at 2700 19th St. and fill out an entry blank right now. Runners-up in both contests get \$50 Bookworks gift certificates, and all winners and honorable mentions get published in the June 18 *Guardian*. Phone Alex Alger at 824-7660 for rules.

If you prefer the more leisurely pace of storytelling, come to a workshop on Wednesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. at the city's Recreational Arts Building, 50 Scott St. "The Art of Storytelling" is free and taught by experienced storyteller and children's librarian Alice Clemens. Call 558-3601.

## Friends Funds

Friends of Noe Valley wishes to thank all those who have already submitted applications for the grant the group is planning to make later this spring. However, there's still time to apply for the money (up to \$2,000), intended for a neighborhood-based or school-related project.

Those interested should send a brief proposal describing their group or project and outlining how the grant would be used to benefit the community to the Friends of Noe Valley Grants Committee, c/o M. Malinak-Magnus, 4341 Arny St.,

San Francisco, CA 94131. Finalists will be contacted shortly after the deadline, which is June 1.

## How to Take Care

Readers of the Gray Panthers story starting on page 1 of this issue will be aware that health care counseling is one of that organization's chief concerns. Fortunately, two other groups are helping the Panthers with this vital social responsibility.

Legal Assistance to the Elderly, established by legislation authored by Assemblyman Art Agnos, provides help to seniors in filing Medicare claims, appealing denials of coverage, and comparing policies.

Local sites for Legal Assistance to the Elderly include the Diamond Senior Center, 117 Diamond St., and Francis of Assisi Senior Housing, 245 Guerrero St. Phone 861-4555 for appointments.

HealthChoice Inc. will hold a series of "HMO Medicare Fairs" this month and next at churches and community centers. Produced by the non-profit organization under an arrangement with the federal government, the fairs will screen a film and distribute information about health maintenance organization (HMOs), which are considered by many to be an economical and effective alternative to Medicare treatment.

One of the HMO Medicare Fairs will take place at Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St., on May 31. Participants should bring their Medicare card and call 550-6212 for a brochure and a complete schedule of fairs at all sites.

## Helping Women

Volunteers are needed for two different but vital women's projects. Women Organized to Make Abuse Nonexistent (W.O.M.A.N.) at 2940 16th St. starts a training course May 13 in crisis intervention and counseling skills. If you can help advocate for battered women, find out more about the training by calling 864-4777.

On a lighter note, the Women's Building at 3543 18th St. needs new members for its expanded Women's Crafts Fair Advisory Committee. The annual pre-Christmas fair is the largest, best attended and most lucrative event sponsored by the Women's Building, and it needs input from craftswomen and people who have promoted or been affiliated with women artisans and entertainers. The committee consists of 10 women who meet 10 times a year, and Third World women and women of color are especially invited to participate. Phone Holly Fincke at 431-1180 if you are interested.

## Grief Groups

San Francisco Suicide Prevention (SFSP) is concerned about the grief, anger, and guilt experienced by those who have lost a loved one through suicide. This month the organization will initiate self-help grief groups, which will meet weekly for eight weeks with a licensed therapist from Suicide Prevention's staff. Participants will share practical solutions to everyday problems and learn about legal, financial, and supportive resources. Phone SFSP at 752-4866 for an interview to meet the group facilitator and learn about the group's organization and composition.

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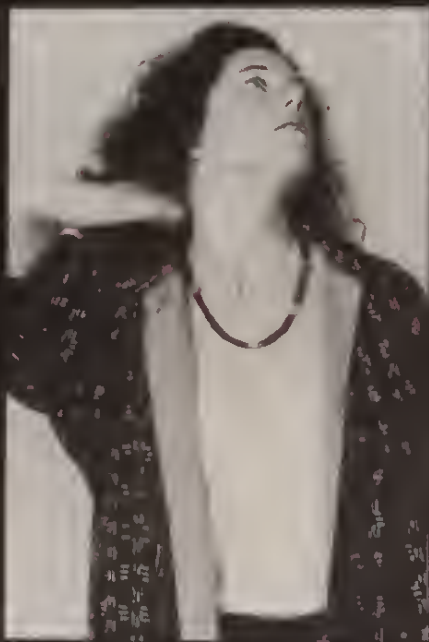
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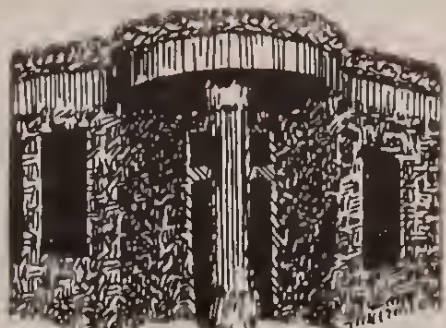
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# S.F. Youth Symphony Plays Along With Milnes

By Steve Steinberg

For conductor David Milnes, the most satisfying aspect of leading the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra is sharing in the enthusiasm and intensity generated by its youthful members.

"They get so excited and enthused to the extent that professionals really envy them. They're playing a piece and experiencing it for the first time in their lives, and they really give it their all."

Milnes, a Noe Valley resident, feels that the youth orchestra introduces some very talented young people to the world of professional music "in a way that is very rare."

One hundred and fifteen youngsters, ranging in age from 12 to 20, play in the orchestra, now in its fifth year. They rehearse once or twice a week and perform every two to three months. Besides playing in Davies Symphony Hall, they also perform at various other Bay Area concert halls, on university campuses and in hospitals. They have played for Queen Elizabeth and, recently, for the delegates to the 40th anniversary celebration of the founding of the United Nations.

Once accepted, the young musicians study and rehearse from a very difficult body of music literature. "We don't make any concessions to the fact that they're younger," says Milnes. "They just take longer to learn. But once they do, they're playing at a professional level." Milnes says that critics have rated the orchestra the equal of some professional symphony orchestras.

Because the youth orchestra only performs every couple of months—as opposed to the four concerts a week given by professional symphony orchestras—the musicians' level of energy and con-



As conductor of the San Francisco Youth Orchestra, David Milnes elicits a level of energy and enthusiasm that's envied by older musicians. He'll accompany the group to their first appearance in Vienna this summer. PHOTO BY MARIELLA POLI

centration is incredibly high by performance time, says Milnes. The result is "a type of musical experience that doesn't come very often for a conductor." It is, he says, "musical inspiration."

In July, Milnes and the youth orchestra will travel to Europe to take part in the annual International Youth and Music Festival in Vienna. It will mark their first appearance at the festival. The orchestra will also perform in several other European cities. Milnes emphasizes that while the music festival is a competition, the youth orchestra will be there more for the opportunity of performance than for awards.

"We need to remember that we're not in an athletic tournament, but rather we're in the business of producing art, which needs to be measured only against itself."

In addition to guiding the youth orchestra, Milnes has served as the San

Francisco Symphony's assistant conductor since the fall of 1984. He holds the post under a grant from the Exxon/Arts Endowment, which is designed to recognize and train aspiring young American conductors.

As assistant conductor, the 29-year-old Milnes aids the symphony's musical director at rehearsals and must be prepared to conduct every concert given by the symphony should the musical director or guest conductor be unable to perform. That means he has to know every score for every concert and must be ready to conduct without necessarily having rehearsed with the orchestra.

Thus far, Milnes has had to step in under those circumstances only once—last December when conductor Edo de Waart's father was taken ill in Holland. Fortunately, Milnes had a day's notice on that occasion, and it turned out to be "a fantastic experience," one which af-

forded him the opportunity to work with famed violinist Pinkus Zukerman. Milnes is also the scheduled conductor for several concerts during the San Francisco Symphony's regular season.

Born in Texas but raised in New York, Milnes says music has always played a major role in his life. "My earliest memories were of hearing music in the house." His parents were both amateur musicians, and he learned to play the clarinet, cello and piano as a child. After completing his undergraduate degree at the State University of New York in Stonybrook, he went on to receive two master's degrees from the Yale School of Music. He is currently working on a doctorate.

Milnes never made a conscious decision to become a conductor but, rather, found himself gravitating toward the profession. He admits, however, that he "always had strong opinions as to how music should be played." While at Stonybrook, he organized and conducted a local orchestra. Later at Yale, he led the New Haven Youth Orchestra. He has studied conducting with several prominent conductors, including Herbert von Blomstedt, the new musical director of the San Francisco Symphony. He describes his relationship with Blomstedt as still one of teacher and pupil.

In addition to achieving success as a conductor, Milnes has drawn kudos as a jazz musician, having played with such jazz greats as Gene Krupa and Chuck Mangione. His present commitments don't allow him much chance to play jazz anymore, but he is still an avid listener. Indeed, his only complaint about San Francisco is that it doesn't have enough places where jazz is played. Though he thinks Noe Valley is the "best place in the city," in terms of weather and mix of people, Milnes expects to give up his apartment here in September when his two-year Exxon grant runs out. He'll probably move on to a conducting position with another symphony orchestra at that time.

Milnes regrets having to leave the city after such a short time, but says with a bit of a sigh that the itinerant life is part of the lot of the modern-day conductor.

The San Francisco Youth Orchestra will give its next concert on Sunday, May 18, 2 p.m., at Davies Symphony Hall. The concert will feature the works of Bartok, Schumann, and Barber. Tickets are \$5. For further information, call the symphony box office at 431-5400. □

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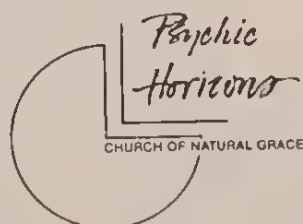
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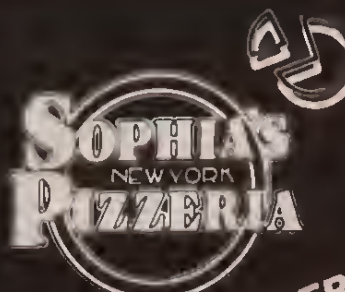
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## Co-op Nursery's Quality Quilt

"It's a lovely art form and one of the things I like most about America—the idea of five or six women all sitting around a quilt swapping stories and laughing," says Felicity Camajani, coordinator of the Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School's sixth annual quilt project.

Thirty families joined in stitching and appliqueing this year's labor of love, which will be raffled off to benefit the co-op. (The winning raffle ticket will be drawn on Monday, May 26, following a performance of the Pickle Family Circus in Glen Park.)

The theme of the quilt, "Windows," came out of a brainstorming session at one of the school's bi-monthly meetings, Camajani said. Completed after three months of communal creative effort, the quilt shows 24 window scenes (looking in or out), set within an apartment building. Among the framed images are a toy shop, a woman walking a baby, an old lady in a rocking chair, a produce storefront, a clothesline, a television set, silhouetted figures, a fight scene, and a bird cage surrounded by plants. An elaborate Victorian front door and some favorite San Francisco skylines, including Twin Peaks and Sutro Tower, are also woven into the tapestry.

The quilt itself measures 85" x 112" (larger than a king-size bed) and is made of satins, silks and velvets, as well as homespun cottons and fabric from old

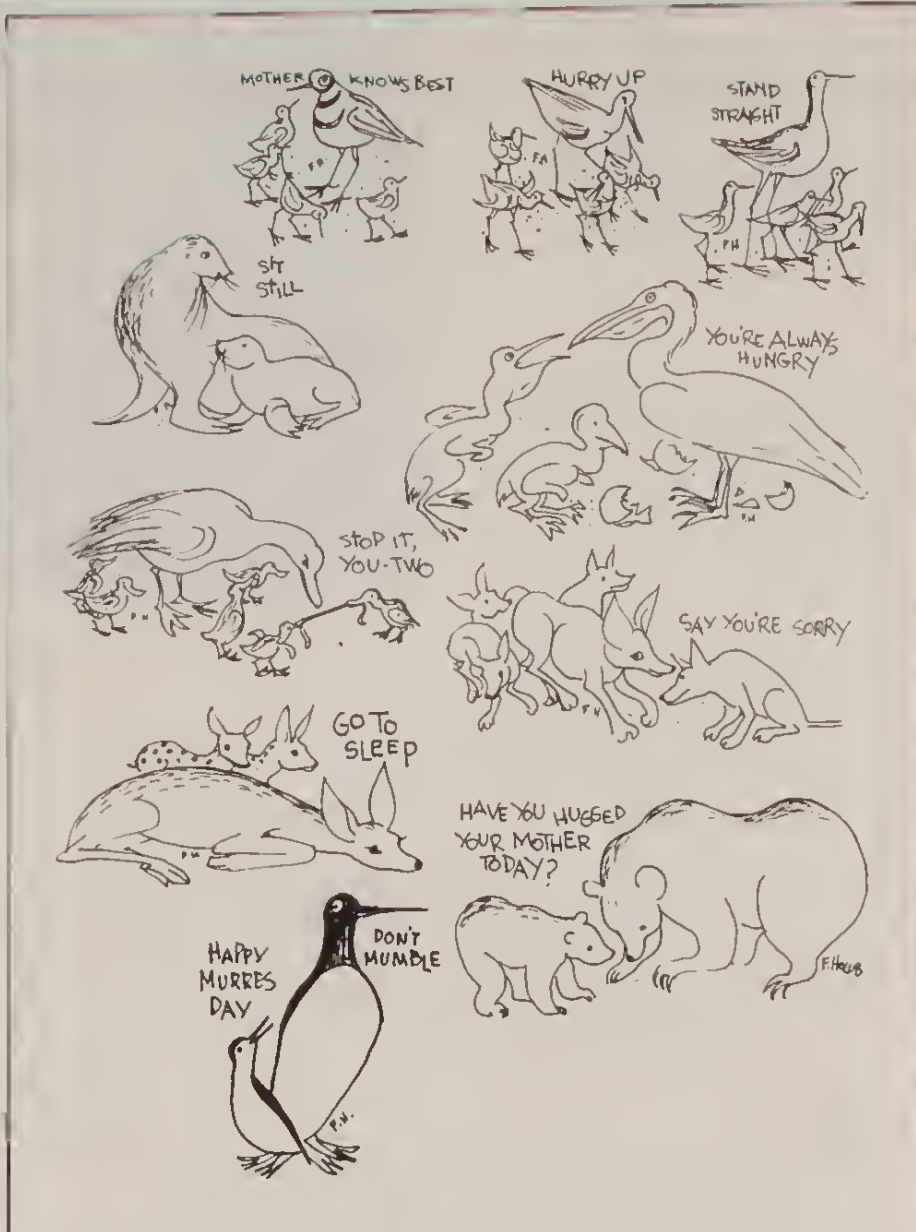


Hands of the kids and parents at the Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School help display this year's patchwork quilt, which will be raffled off May 26 to raise money for the school. Thirty families contributed to the quilt's 24 "windows."

PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

shirts and curtains. Some of the patches are three-dimensional, giving it the feel of soft sculpture. Camajani describes the quilt as "definitely a work of art," suitable for hanging on your wall.

Raffle tickets are available at \$1 apiece through the nursery school, located in the Noe Valley Ministry on Sanchez Street (647-2278), or at Gibraltar Savings, 4040 24th St., where the quilt went on display last month. Go take a peek in the quilt's windows. □



Neighborhood artist Florence Holub honors mothers of all species with this series of vignettes, drawn from her experience as a docent at the Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park. "The species have been changed to protect the guilty," admits Holub, but the series is dedicated to all "who in the rearing of their young must make countless repetitive but necessary vocalizations."

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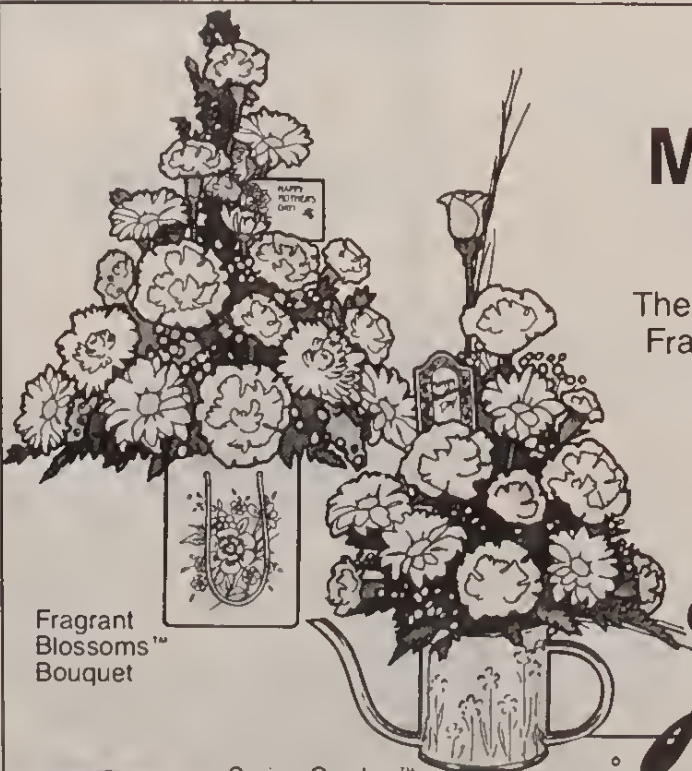
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## Rally Round the Rec Center

The Upper Noe Valley Recreation Center at Day and Sanchez streets has served for 30 years as a haven for fun lovers of all ages, some of whom are captured here in photographs by Joel Abramson. The tots are enjoying a Saturday morning "Kids' Gym," where they can horse around on rockers, slides, giant bouncing balls and the like. When they get a little older, they'll go on to the center's Pee wee Softball League, and later to pre-teen and teen softball, baseball, soccer, basketball and touch football. (Most of these sports, plus volleyball, are available for adults, too.)

Seniors gather at Upper Noe on Wednesday afternoons to play cards and plan a variety of other activities, including lunches, day trips and overnights. Young and old alike are invited to attend holiday parties and compete in chess, checkers and ping-pong tournaments. The city's Recreation Department oversees all the goings-on at the site, but you can call Upper Noe Recreation Center at 647-2474 for a schedule of regular and upcoming events.

*Photos by Joel Abramson*



*What goes up must come down, but the faces on these happy teeter tots seem to say that feelings are always high at the Upper Noe Valley Recreation Center, near Sanchez and Day streets. Photo by Joel Abramson.*

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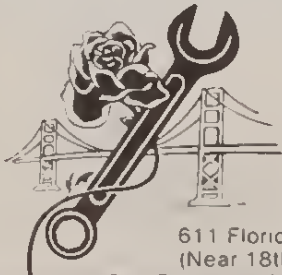
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SIMPLY SUCCULENT SUPPERS



By Mazaak

MAYDAYS: The facade of Downtown Noe Valley is rapidly crumbling, according to a "Spring Rumor Report" just published by the Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation.

It's no longer a rumor that the familiar red facade of Glen Five & Ten will be dismantled and replaced by the institutional logo of the U.S. Postal Service any day now. The Noe Valley post office plans to start remodeling Glen's recently vacated storefront (4083 24th St.) next month so it can make its move across the street by September. Now the rumors have shifted to the post office's current slot: what's gonna go in there? Sorry, the NVBI was unable to find out what hair designer, kitty boutique or chocolate popcorn vendor might be eyeing the spot.

Another top rumor circulating these days is that the Acme Metal Spinning Works Cafe, considered a Noe Valley landmark in its "Rosie's Flauta" days (late '70s, early '80s), has been sold. This one happens to be true, the NVBI reports. Acme owner Joel Coopersmith says the now-yuppified restaurant has been purchased by the "Lok family" and will be re-dubbed "Mom's Cafe." Coopersmith plans to hold a big party at the close of escrow, he says.

Rumors have also been confirmed that Surf Super Market, a 24th Street fixture since 1964, is for sale. Maybe the new owners will do the neighborhood a favor and reinstitute the Palmer, a movie theater that once occupied Surf's site. Don't get your hopes up, though.

St. Phillip's Market, a "Ma and Pa" on 24th near Diamond, has closed its doors, the owner having filed for bankruptcy. The business is now in the hands of a court trustee and will no doubt be sold or liquidated.

Also closed is St. Francis Market on Sanchez between Valley and 29th streets. (More open than ever, however, is Bell Market, now keeping shopping hours till midnight every day but Sunday.)

There's also a rumor that Zorba's Lounge, one of Downtown Noe Valley's few live music spots, has been sold, pending liquor license approval by the ABC (Alcohol Beverage Control).

It looks like the New Hsian Chinese restaurant on 24th near Church has a new owner, subject to ABC approval, also.

The hottest (but saddest) rumor going around last month was that the Meat Market Coffeehouse, our last cherished

## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Joe Mullan's Cocktail Meatballs

Long-time resident Walter Locker sent the Voice the hot and spicy meatball recipe that was part of the rich culinary legacy of his friend, band leader Joe Mullan. Mullan died early this year at the age of 61.

#### Meatballs

3 lbs. ground round  
1 lb. ground pork  
1 1/2 onions, chopped fine  
1 cup bread crumbs  
1 cup tomato juice  
2 large eggs  
1 tsp. thyme  
1/2 tsp. sage  
3 tbsp. chopped parsley  
2 tsp. dry mustard  
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce  
1 tsp. Italian spices

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1 bottle hot barbecue sauce  
1 can crushed pineapple  
1/2 cup honey  
2 onions, chopped  
1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
1 can tomato sauce  
1 cup brown sugar  
1/2 cup wine vinegar  
2 bell peppers, chopped  
1 tbsp. tabasco sauce  
Salt and pepper to taste  
Combine all above; bring to boil; simmer 1/2 hour

Combine the above ingredients into a ball; mix thoroughly. Roll into tiny balls (nickel size). Roll in flour and fry in oil until brown. Serve with cocktail toothpicks to dip in sauce.

remnant of the '60s coffee-non-achiever generation, is on the auction block. Fortunately, this news could not be confirmed.

In a rather ironic twist, a psychiatrist has moved into the offices above the Pantry on 24th Street recently vacated by the successful PR firm, Hi-Tech, which moved to more spacious quarters on Potrero Hill. The NVBI concludes that there are now as many therapists in Noe Valley as there are hairdressers. Well, it looks like we might need 'em.

☎☎☎

INTEREST RATES DOWN, FOR SALE SIGNS UP: Noe Valley is still buzzing about the headline on the April 7 *S.F. Chronicle's* "Business Extra" that proclaimed, "Quaint Noe Valley Is a Housing Mecca." Just what we need, more publicity. Foxwell Realty immediately posted the article in the window of its quaint Church Street office, and no wonder. The story said single-family homes in the Valley were going for anywhere from \$200,000 to \$375,000. Good news for owners and realtors, maybe, but bad news for renters.

Our quaint mecca has also been targeted by *Beverly Dubrin's Where-to-Guide*. In the trade journal's April issue, four pages are devoted to "where to go for restaurants, shopping, services, travel," etc., in Noe Valley. The San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, Tech-Art and Star Magic are recommended to tourists as stores "not found elsewhere," and even Herb's Fine Foods (since 1943) got a mention in the "Where to Eat" category. Guess they've sampled Herb's special-ity, "Roast Beef au jus."



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Now is as good a time as any to correct the error I made in last month's history quiz. The Noe Theater was *not* located where Coast Savings is now but rather next door. According to Frank Reilly, who was born in 1917 in the 23rd Street house where he still resides, the corner was occupied by Charlie Schroyer's Tidewater Associate gas station. Frank adds that Charlie was the designer of Tidewater's "flying A" logo that used to stand above the station. Anybody out there have a photo?

☎☎☎

SURE TO START RUMORS is a book by 27th Street author Jean Gonick. Jean says her *Mostly True Confessions—Looking for Love in the '80s*, published by Random House, is somewhat autobiographical and frequently uses Noe Valley and 24th Street as a backdrop. Jean's favorite chapter describes two neighbors, a straight single woman and a gay man, sitting out on their back decks and commiserating about failed relationships. Very Noe Valley. Jean will be at Cover to Cover bookstore May 17, 2 to 4 p.m., for a wine and cheese/book-signing party.

In other literary news: Kate Rosenberger of Phoenix Books and Records reports that the *Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers* comic by Ripoff Press are the most requested "underground" mags, while the number one aboveground comic book is Marvel's *X-Men*.

At News on 24, Denise Abersold claims the most requested magazine these days is Andy Warhol's *Interview*, published out of New York. "We're selling out every

month, even more than *Rolling Stone*, shrugs Denise. Blame it on MTV.

You might be interested to know some of the names submitted by Noe Valley kids in the "Name the Dolphin" contest at Noe Valley Sports: Zippy, Doodles, Dandee, Bubbles, Shamu, and Da. We'll give you the winner next month.

On the fret front, Dale Miller of Noe Valley Music (the store, not the series) says a very popular item nowadays is the Hawaiian koa-wood ukulele made by Kamaka. You uk'ers already know that the Kamaka brothers, Fred and Sam, put out the best uke in the biz.

Dale also reminds us that musicians Robert Lowrey and Boh Eike will bring their acoustic guitar blues to 1021 Sanchez June 1. Don't miss this "great concert," he says, starting at 7:30 p.m.

☎☎☎

SPEAKING OF THE BLUES: Walter Locker writes that Noe Valley recently lost one of its favorite celebrities, Joe Mullan, who died at age 61. Joe was born and raised in the neighborhood; his family owned the coal yard that stood on the corner now occupied by Bank of America. A 24th Street resident, Joe achieved notoriety as a musician (bass fiddle) and band leader, and worked as a business agent for the Musicians Union. A longtime pal of Lena Horne's, he played frequently at the Mark Hopkins and St. Francis hotels here, and put in a long stint at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel in Honolulu.

Walter says Joe was also renowned for his epicurean excellence and enjoyed cooking up taste treats for his friends. Locker, a gourmand himself, sent us the "Cocktail Meatballs" recipe printed on this page, which he says Joe Mullan picked up from the chef at the Royal Hawaiian. Thanks, Walter. The Voice staff plans to serve Joe's hors d'oeuvres at our next bash.

☎☎☎

SO IT GOES in Noe Valley these May days of 1986. It's hard to believe that only 500 miles away, under the sands of Yucca Flats, Ronald Re Guns is exploding nuclear bombs. Does this mean that our quaint little mecca is going to fall into the Nevada test site instead of the Pacific Ocean when the big quake comes? In case of emergency, I'll meet you at the fire hydrant on 20th and Church. Ciao for now...

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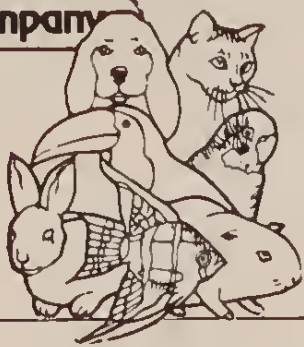
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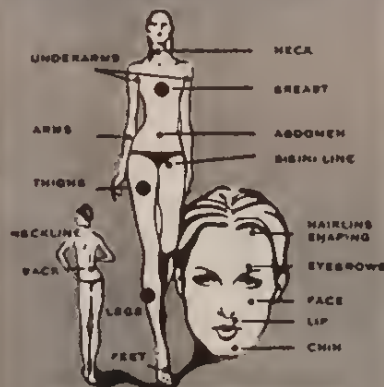
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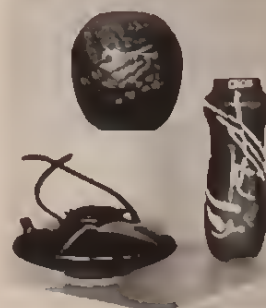
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# MORE MOUTHS to feed



Alexandra Marianna Kiesel

When Bryan and Patty Kiesel met, "I was a 'Stew' and he was a hippie," says Patty, a flight attendant for American Air-

lines. Patty "didn't even look twice" at Bryan, even though her best friend ended up marrying his best friend 15 years ago. But at a "Big Chill" party around three years ago, Patty "took a fifth look" at Bryan, and before they knew it, the two were married and rocking a baby daughter, Alexandra Marianna, in their Eureka Street home. Alexandra was born April 29, 1985, weighing 7 pounds, 2 ounces.

"Our world has totally changed," says Patty, 36, "but Ali is our number one joy, and all those changes have been for the better." Prior to parenthood, Patty explained, she frequently indulged herself in luxurious facials and whirlwind travel sprees. Bryan was a free spirit who "never had a regular job." Now at 37, Bryan works 40 hours a week as a construction foreman on highrise buildings, and Patty practices almost fulltime motherhood, although she continues to work eight days a month flying to Hawaii for American. Both parents agree that with the advent of Ali they "finally have goals now."

Having just celebrated her first birthday, Ali has established a few goals herself. She'd like to win recognition in sports (she recently got a special seat on Dad's bicycle for rides in Golden Gate Park) and then pursue a career in the visual arts (Ali is ambidextrous and paints with Magic Markers in both hands!). She's also interested in joining a play group, so if anyone out there has an opening, let Ali know. She'll set up an interview with her parents.

Devin William Ness

On Oct. 29, 1985, Alexander Ness' baby brother, Devin William, arrived on the scene at Kaiser Hospital's delivery room, weighing in at 7 pounds, 13 ounces. Having a baby is "a lot easier the second time around," reported parents Stephen Ness and Bari Stelmack Ness. "You're still tired, but you don't have the same anxiety. You know that he's not going to be a newborn forever, and so you can treasure his babyhood more."

Older brother Alexander, who at 3 is a long way from babyhood, was at first tentative about acknowledging Devin's existence, Mom says. But now he maintains a "detached amusement about the whole thing" and at times is even "tickled!"

Bari describes baby Devin, who's the "spittin' image" of his father, as a cross between the Michelin Tire Man and the Pillsbury Doughboy. Alexander, on the other hand, takes after Mom. Both parents express amazement at how differently their two cubs have turned out—in almost every way.

"Alex ate constantly and slept through the night real early, but Devin isn't that interested in food or sleep. He spends most of his time in motion. And although Alex was good-natured, Devin is the smiling-est baby I've ever encountered," Bari said.

Stephen and Bari, who have lived in Noe Valley since 1977 and 1979, respectively, find themselves liking the neighborhood even more after starting a family. Stephen, a computer software consultant, works out of their home on 29th Street, so he "gets to see the kids" a lot more than your average 9-to-5'er, he says. Since taking a "mothering" leave from her profession as a labor lawyer, Bari has found the time to stroll the Noe Valley streets enjoying "the beautiful parks, nice weather and lots of families." Alex's happy membership in the Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School has also been a big factor in the Nesses' decision to settle down to life as a foursome in Noe Valley.



**MORE MOUTHS TO FEED** wants to show off your newest family member. If you have a new baby in residence, please send your announcement to the *Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths, 1021 Sanchez St., S.F. 94114. Also include your phone number, so we can contact you to arrange for the family portrait.

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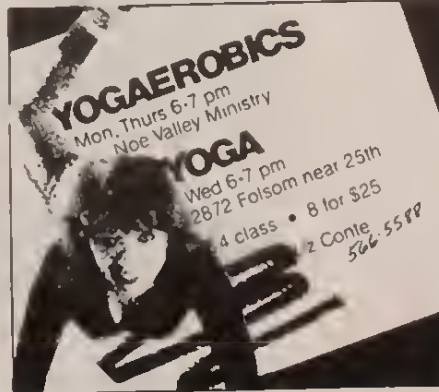
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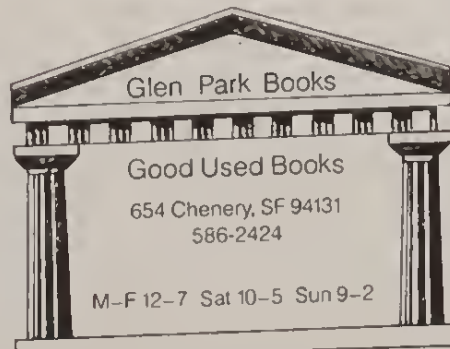
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# CALENDAR

**MAY 1-13:** ART OPTIONS exhibits Dana Smith's glass sculptures and Celia Thompson-Taupin's wall pieces. 1600 Church St. Tues.-Sat., 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. 641-1892

**MAY 1-31:** Phase One Productions continues "The Miss Firecracker Contest," an offbeat COMEDY by Beth Henley, at the Nova Theater, 347 Dolores St. Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m. 864-0235

**MAY 1-JUNE 8:** A PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT featuring the Alaska "Sled Dog Series" by Brian Allen and works by John Humble and Jeff Weston, will fill the Eye Gallery, 758 Valencia St. Thurs.-Sun. 1-5 p.m. 431-6911

**MAY 6:** The Noe Valley Ministry's "COURSE IN MIRACLES" meets Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m., following the regular 5:30 Peace and Healing Service at the church. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

**MAY 7:** The Committee to Defend Reproductive Rights will hold its second annual WOMEN'S COMEDY NIGHT, with appearances by local comedians Marga Gomez, Linda Moakes, Monica Palacios, Linda Hill, Teresa Holcomb and Kris Welch. Intersection for the Arts, 766 Valencia St. 8 p.m. 826-2100

**MAY 8-10:** Lilli Theatres HARRIET SCHIFFER performs her piece about reproductive ambivalence called "Morning Sickness, or Woodsman, Spare That Tree!" at Intersection for the Arts, 766 Valencia St. 8 p.m. 626-ARTS

**MAY 8:** Counselor Roger Marchand covers the topic "Ethics and Integrity Are Good Business" at a LECTURE SERIES held at Glendale Federal Savings Community Room, 1801 Van Ness Ave. 7 p.m. B21-3652

**MAY 9:** The Ina Chalis OPERA ENSEMBLE will give a musical birthday celebration for Brahms and Tchaikovsky at Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 8 p.m. 826-8670

**MAY 9:** NEW COLLEGE presents psychotherapist and writer Dr. Lillian Rubin speaking on her new bestseller *Just Friends—The Meaning of Friendship in Our Lives*. New College, 777 Valencia St. 8 p.m. 626-1694

**MAY 9:** Mission Cultural Center sponsors PERFORMANCES by members of the Cuban National Folklore Ensemble and the Asi Somos Modern Dance Company. Capp Street Center, 362 Capp St. Call 821-1155 for time.

**MAY 11:** Skip Sweeney premieres his award-winning VIDEO "My Mother Married Wilbur Slump" on KDED-TV (Channel 9), 7:30 p.m.

**MAY 13:** Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE) will feature the FILM "Silent Pioneers," a documentary on the lives of older gay men and lesbians, at Operation Concern, 1853 Market St. 1 p.m. 626-7000

**MAY 13:** The Noe Valley Library continues its series of MOVIES for kids, including "Angus Lost," "Mole and the Hedgehog," and "Myra," for ages 3-5 shown at 10 and 11 a.m., and FILMS for ages 6 and up shown at 3:30 p.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 285-2788

**MAY 14:** Twenty-fifth Street resident Jim Cox will give a SLIDE LECTURE about his trip to Tokyo and Kyoto at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 7 p.m. Free. 285-2788

**MAY 14-JUNE 7:** Intersection for the Arts presents the award-winning Irish actor and storyteller JOHN MOLLOY in "From the Ice Age to Next Thursday: A Brief History of Ireland Told in the Oral Tradition." 766 Valencia St. Wed.-Sat., 8 p.m. 626-ARTS

**MAY 15:** Cherrie Moraga, author of *Loving in the War Years*, reads from her newest work, a THEATRE PIECE about a Chicana lesbian relationship. "Old Wives' Tales," 1009 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 821-4675

**MAY 16:** The first annual NOE VALLEY ART AFFAIR will feature the works of painters, sculptors, poets, jewelers, musicians and other artists who reside or work in the neighborhood. Sponsored by the Noe Valley Art Association at Nobody's Inn, 4054 24th St. May 16, 7 p.m.-2 a.m., May 17 & 18, 1 p.m.-2 a.m. 285-0674



The members of Golden Bough bring the songs and instruments of Scandinavia, Ireland, and the British Isles to their performance at the Noe Valley Music Series May 24. PHOTO BY IRENE YOUNG

**MAY 16:** Award-winning SHORT FILMS from France will be shown at the Noe Valley Cinema, 1021 Sanchez St. 8 p.m. 989-0382

**MAY 17:** ANCIENT FUTURE gives its impression of world fusion music at the Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. 282-2317

**MAY 17:** Noe Valley author JEAN GONICK will sign copies of her new book *Mostly True Confessions—Looking for Love in the '80s*, at Cover to Cover bookstore, 24th Street near Sanchez. 2-4 p.m.

**MAY 23:** Steve McQueen's last film, "THE REIVERS," will be shown at Noe Valley Cinema. 1021 Sanchez St. 8 p.m. 929-0382

**MAY 24:** The acoustic quartet of GOLOEN BOUGH spins its magical spell through Irish, British and Scandinavian folk music. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. 282-2317

**MAY 24-26:** The acclaimed PICKLE FAMILY CIRCUS will bring the crowds to Glen Park for a series of Memorial Day weekend performances sponsored by the SF Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools. The Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School will raffle off this year's patchwork quilt after the circus performance May 26. Glen Park (Elk, Cheney and Bosworth streets). Call 648-4295 for times and ticket prices.

**MAY 25:** JON RASKIN from the RDVA Saxophone Quartet joins pianist Greg Goodman and trombonist Jon English in playing some "Music Full of Holes." Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 7:30 p.m. 282-2317

**MAY 26:** Neighborhood residents are welcome to attend an AIDS HEALING SERVICE sponsored by the Metaphysical Alliance and the AIDS Interfaith Network. Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St. 6:30 p.m. 928-HOPE

**MAY 29:** A creative visualization WORKSHOP will be offered by OPTIONS for Women Over Forty at the Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 7 p.m. 431-6405

**MAY 29:** CELESTE WEST, editor of *Words in Our Pockets—The Feminist Writers Guild Handbook*, will share tips on how to get published. "Old Wives' Tales," 1009 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 821-4675

**MAY 30-31:** Mapenzi, Too Much Fun, Zula Pool, Legal Reins and other local bands will stage a two-day DANCE PARTY to benefit Firehouse 7/The 16th. Note club at 3160 16th St. 8 p.m. 621-1617

**MAY 30 & JUNE 1:** UNBDUNO SPIRIT, the resident dance company of the Asian-American Dance Collective, presents the works of five Asian-American choreographers. New Performance Gallery, 3151 17th St. 8:30 p.m. 552-8980

**MAY 31:** RIVALS (three woodwinds and percussion) join the NUCLEAR WHALES (six saxophones) in an evening of outside jazz and inside classical sax music. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. 282-2317

## JUNE 1986

**JUNE 1:** Twentieth-fourth Street's Noe Valley Music store sponsors a BLUES NIGHT with guitarists Robert Lowrey and Bob Eike at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7:30 p.m. 821-6644

### The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send Calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding month of issue to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Please note: our next issue will appear June 3, the deadline for calendar items is May 15.

## MAY 1986

**MAY 7:** Bonife Tutuma, of the South African Allied Workers Union, and Marek Garzdecki, director of the Solidarnosc Information Office in London, get together to TALK about international labor solidarity. Sponsored by Industrial Workers of the World, Workers Solidarity Alliance, and Revolutionary Socialist League at New College. 777 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 849-3319

**MAY 7:** La Musica presents a DINNER CONCERT called "From One Extreme to the Other." The evening includes a four-course meal followed by a musical program in which soprano Cynthia Vaughn and bass Gregory Stapp explore the vocal extremes of composers Offenbach, Mozart and Bernstein. Cafe San Marcos, 2367 Market St. 7 p.m. Call for reservations. 864-3649

**MAY 7:** Ongoing FREE WORKSHOP "The Art of Storytelling," sponsored by the S.F. Recreation and Park Department and taught by librarian Alice Clemens. New Recreational Arts Building, 50 Scott St. Wed., 4-5 p.m. 558-3601

**MAY 8:** The Working Women's Resource Project presents a SLIDESHOW and "We Are One," a VIDEO documentary of the 1981 New York City garment workers' strike. "Old Wives' Tales," 1009 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 821-4675

**MAY 9:** NOE VALLEY CINEMA will show "All Around Reduced Personality," a landmark feminist film starring Helke Sanders, at its Friday night series. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8 p.m. 929-0382

**MAY 9-10:** The "Prayer for Peace PLUS" is a DANCE PERFORMANCE sponsored by Company In Flight, featuring new work by Liz Fuentes Rosner and others. New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 8 p.m.

**MAY 10-11 & 17-18:** OPPOSITE FIELD PRODUCTIONS, a newly formed theater company, debuts two one-act comedies by Mark Gozonsky, "1972" and "Rootbound." Junior Museum, 199 Museum Way. 8:30 p.m. 558-8567

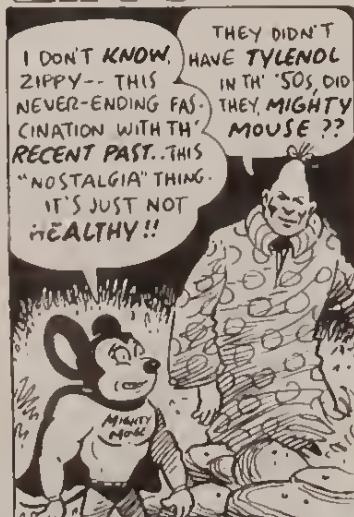
**MAY 10, 17:** Know nothing but want to learn something about cars? "GET AUTOWISE" at a one-day, hands-on class taught by Mary Stern, 352 Coleridge St. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 282-4957

**MAY 10:** JAZZ PIANIST Jessica Williams plays an evening of straight-ahead and prepared piano. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. 282-2317

**MAY 10:** The Fair Oaks Neighbors hold their annual STREET FAIR and garage sale on the five blocks of Fair Oaks between 21st and 26th streets. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**MAY 11:** MOTHER'S DAY. Don't forget to call home!

### ZIPPY



### "FUTURE IMPERFECT"

